

64  
Roxbury, Dec. 23, 1873.

Dear Wendell:

Last evening I dropped into the P.O. box a letter for Mr. Bleby, addressed to your care; intending it for the night mail. But our postman anticipated the time some <sup>four</sup> or five minutes <sup>before I got to it,</sup> in emptying the box, and taking its contents to ~~the~~ general P.O.; so it will not reach you any sooner than this. As Mr. Bleby sails for Nassau to-morrow, it is hardly probable that he will be able to call at your office; and if it so happen, I do not wish you to take any trouble to convey the letter to him, as it was merely a hasty farewell. If, therefore, he fail to get it, then destroy it, and I will write another to him to his address in the Bahamas Islands. Frank wishes a dollar to be



handed to Mr. Bleby, should he call, as due him; he having left with Frank, last spring, on leaving us, six dollars to pay for two visits of a physician, (regular charge) — but Dr. Jackson asked only five dollars for his services. This was a slip of memory when Mr. B. was here last week, which Frank wishes to have rectified, if opportunity offer. In case you pay the dollar, it will, of course, be refunded by Frank.

Christmas is at hand, and the little folks every where are expecting to be remembered in some way or other. At such a distance from your darlings, it is difficult to decide what toys would please them best; and therefore I enclose a little spending money to be used in their behalf as you or Lucy may think judicious. Or half of it



may be given to Lucy for "pin money." I am sorry it is so small an amount; but what with the other grandchildren, and various relatives and friends to be remembered, and a diminished and diminishing income, and some large medical bills, &c., &c., my pockets are well "cleared out." And yet, my dear boy, I want to send you something, in season at least for a new year's token - not in accordance with any wishes or expectations of your own, I know, but for my parental gratification. I will leave it for Lucy, "unbeknownst" to you, to suggest something for my guidance in making a purchase.

I am improving in my general health, but not much in the knee.

A merry Christmas to you all!

In great haste,

Your loving Father.



